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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 34, 35, 85 and 86
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 25 February 1994 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which retains the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your attention.

Another massacre was committed by the illegal Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory at dawn on Friday, 25 February 1994. A group of Israeli settlers, including 1 in military uniform, opened fire indiscriminately at the Palestinian worshippers praying during the holy month of Ramadan in Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi in Al-Khalil, resulting in more than 50 killed and more than 200 wounded. That massacre, the most horrible massacre since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, was followed by the killing of more than 10 Palestinians in confrontations with the Israeli army in Al-Khalil and other locations throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, including Nablus, Ramallah and Gaza, and by the closure of several areas by the Israeli authorities declaring those areas off-limits.

We believe that the underlying cause of such condemnable actions remains the official Israeli policy regarding settlements in the occupied Palestinian

territory. Further, we believe that the Israeli Government should be held responsible for the Al-Khalil massacre. In this connection, we recall Security Council resolutions which consider settlements to be illegal and obstacles to peace and which call for their dismantlement.

The massacre which has been committed by the illegal settlers, as well as their other violent actions against Palestinian civilians in the last several months, indicate their determination to undermine the peace process currently under way. This dangerous situation requires immediate and firm actions to bring these settlers under control and suppress their violent behaviour, while the transitional arrangements in the Palestinian territory are taking place.

We call upon the international community to bring an end to such massacres and criminal acts committed against our people, and we reiterate our request for international protection through a direct international presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. Such a presence could only be conducive to the success of the peace process. We also call upon the Security Council immediately to fulfil its responsibilities and to take the necessary measures in reaction to the situation recounted above. We call upon the Council to do so in a meeting to be held immediately due to the volatility of the situation and its dangerous nature.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35, 85 and 86, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations